REMARKS

Claims 1-9 are pending. Claims 1, 2, 3 and 7 have been amended. Reconsideration and allowance of the present application based on the following remarks are respectfully requested.

Claim Objection

Claim 1 was objected to for containing a minor informality. Applicants have amended claim to correct this informality in accordance with the Examiner's suggestion. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of this objection.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Karasawa (U.S. Patent No. 6,665,315) and claim 2 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Karasawa in view of Yuki et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,778,557). Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.

Amended claim 1 recites, in part, an ATM PON ONU controlling apparatus that includes a cell receiving means for receiving an ATM cell from the PON downstream data and transferring the ATM cell through a receiving UTOPIA interfacing means to an external means and transferring a message in a PLOAM (Physical Layer Operation and Maintenance) cell to a message processing means by demultiplexing. In contrast, Karasawa discloses a slave station in Figure 3 that includes a receiving unit 20 for converting an optical signal to an electrical signal and forwarding the electrical signals to a detection unit 21 for detecting valid cells. The cells are then forwarded to a PLOAM detection unit 22 where the PLOAM cells are extracted from the cell stream. See, for example, column 4, lines 42-63. Karasawa does not teach a receiving means for demultiplexing a received cell to forward the ATM cells to an external means and the PLOAM cells to a message processing means since the receiving means in Karasawa merely converts the received cells into electrical signals and since Karasawa is silent regarding demultiplexing the received cells as recited in claim 1.

Accordingly, Karasawa fails to teach of suggest, an ATM PON ONU controlling apparatus that includes a cell receiving means for receiving an ATM cell from the PON downstream data and transferring the ATM cell through a receiving UTOPIA interfacing means to an external means and transferring a message in a PLOAM (Physical Layer Operation and Maintenance) cell to a message processing means by demultiplexing, as recited in amended claim 1.

Claim 2 is believed allowable for at least the same reasons presented above with respect to claim 1 by virtue of its dependence upon claim 1 and because Yuki does not remedy the deficiencies of Karasawa discussed above with respect to claim 1. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of these rejections.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's indication that claims 3-9 contained allowable subject matter and would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the features of their base claim and any intervening claims. However, in view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that all of the claims (claims 1-9) are in condition for allowance.

Conclusion

Therefore, all objections and rejections having been addressed, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in a condition for allowance and a Notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Should any issues remain unresolved, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned attorney for Applicants at the telephone number indicated below in order to expeditiously resolve any remaining issues.

Respectfully submitted,

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